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LETTER DATED 2 MAY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF RWANDA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from the Rwandese Government, I have the honour to draw the attention of the Security Council to the need to envisage immediate action to halt the hostilities that are taking many human lives and causing material and other damage that is out of all proportion.

The persistent refusal of the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) to consent to a cease-fire reflects its determination to give precedence to the logic of the hostilities generated by its war machine, which is fed by military assistance massively sustained through the supply of military support in men and matériel, which it receives, thus presenting a challenge to the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR).

By this obstruction, the Rwandese Patriotic Front is trying to undermine the pacification process and is perpetuating the situation of violence, which it is exacerbating by the large-scale massacres which it is carrying out, particularly in the north, at Kigali, as well as in other parts of the country, where it sometimes operates using uniforms of the Rwandese army that it has had since the beginning of the war in October 1990.

In this regard, the Government requests the Council to denounce and condemn all these ignoble acts which have provoked during the last two days a movement of hundreds of thousands of people fleeing the massacres of RPF, particularly in Kibungo prefecture, in view of the fact that the Rwandese Patriotic Front is doing everything in its power to stop these people crossing the border to Tanzania, while the avowed and consummate objective is to liquidate them all, simply because they are ethnic Hutus.

It should also be recalled that in 1991 the Rwandese Patriotic Front systematically murdered more than 100,000 (one hundred thousand) people and caused the forcible internal displacement of approximately 300,000 (three hundred thousand) others.

Furthermore, it will be recalled that in February-March 1993, the Rwandese Patriotic Front massacred 150,000 (one hundred and fifty thousand) people in cold blood and forced more than a million others to leave their property.

Moreover, since the assassination of the Rwandese Head of State on 6 April 1994, several tens of thousands of people have been killed by the Rwandese Patriotic Front, and soon three million people will have been displaced from their property.

This situation, which is accompanied by atrocious violence in Rwanda, must cease.

In these circumstances and in order to put an end to this tragedy, the Rwandese Government believes that the Security Council should:

1. Demand an immediate and unconditional cease-fire, such as the Rwandese Government has constantly called for;

2. Put an end to the aggression against Rwanda and, to this end, request, for urgent action, the report of the United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda concerning the military assistance given to RPF, without which it would have accepted dialogue and negotiation;

3. To envisage measures to induce RPF to think in terms of peace and compel it to accept the cease-fire;

4. To invite the international community to assist the Rwandese Government in continuing the process of pacification and to aid the refugees and the people displaced by the war and the violence, as well as the famine-stricken population.

The Rwandese Government believes that the stabilization of the situation requires imperatively the strengthening of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), whose staff were reduced, whereas the situation created by the hostilities and violence called rather for a substantial increase of human, material and logistic supplies at the operation's disposal.

It is in this context that Rwanda places and salutes the initiative of the Secretary-General, Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, contained in his letter of 29 March 1994 (S/1994/518), which, in the view of the Rwandese Government, requires urgent follow-up by the Council with a view to authorizing the increase in the resources of UNAMIR, with the mandate to:

- Ensure respect for the cease-fire by means of an interposed force;

- Contribute to the protection of the civilian population;

- Assist the police forces in re-establishing security in the country, by an enhanced UNAMIR presence;

- To ensure the security of humanitarian relief operations.

It remains understood that the strengthened UNAMIR is to play the determining role in ensuring the resumption and success of the peace process, and, in this regard, the Rwandese Government reiterates its devotion to peace, dialogue and observance of the Arusha peace agreement signed on 4 August 1993.

The strengthening of UNAMIR should also be accompanied by an increase in the staff and capacity of UNOMUR, so as to enable it to contribute effectively to stability in the region.

Lastly, the Rwandese Government offers its full cooperation for the success of the operation, which should be envisaged without delay, with respect for the principle of the sovereignty and institutions of the Rwandese State.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jean-Damascène BIZIMANA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Rwanda to the United Nations